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Report totals 2440 pages

## 14. ABSTRACT

Development and fielding of the F-35A represents one of the priority defense programs for the U.S. The F-35 program was initiated in the early 1990s to provide the premier strike fighter aircraft to the Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as international partners for the next several decades. Currently, the Air Force is scheduled to acquire and field over 1,700 F-35As over the next several decades; this basing action is only a part of the Air Force's program to assure availability of combat-ready pilots and maintenance personnel in the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world. This Environmental Impact Statement focuses on the analysis of alternative locations for and the Records of Decision for the Air Force's initial operational wing locations.

#### 15. SUBJECT TERMS

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# RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) FOR F-35A OPERATIONAL BASING

After careful consideration of relevant operational, environmental, economic, and technical factors discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), public input, and other relevant factors, the Air Force signed two Records of Decisions on December 2, 2013 for the proposed beddown (or basing) of F-35A operational aircraft: one for Air Combat Command (ACC) bases and the other for the Air Reserve Command/Air National Guard installations. While only one EIS was used to analyze the impacts for each separate action of basing F-35A operational aircraft at an Active Duty base and at an Air Reserve Command/Air National Guard installation, the two Records of Decisions are separate and distinct decisions that are being made as evidenced by two separate Record of Decision documents.

Of the three ACC alternative basing locations, the Air Force decided to implement a decision to base up to 72 F-35A and associated construction at Hill AFB in Utah to accommodate aircraft anticipated to start arriving in 2015. Of the three Air Reserve Command/Air National Guard alternative basing locations, the Air Force decided to implement a decision to base up to 18 F-35A and associated construction at Burlington Air Guard Station (AGS) in Vermont to accommodate aircraft anticipated to start arriving in 2020. Although this beddown decision will base up to 72 aircraft at Hill AFB and 18 aircraft at Burlington AGS, the actual number of aircraft is limited by Congressional approval and funding and aircraft acquisition.

The FEIS Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 2013, and the 30-day waiting period ended November 4, 2013. For questions, please contact Ms Ann Stefanek, Media Operations Officer SAF/PAO, Headquarters, USAF Pentagon, 703-695-0640. The Record of Decisions are available for downloading from the Web at <a href="https://www.accplanning.org">www.accplanning.org</a>.